

THE DANISH SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

European Commission

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Towards a European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning

The European Commission has put forward an initiative for a European Qualification Framework (EQF) for Lifelong Learning.

The idea is to create a meta-framework, which will refer to learning outcomes located in a structure of 8 levels. The framework will cover knowledge, skills and wider competences described as personal and professional outcomes.

The Danish Society of Engineers welcomes the focus on lifelong learning. However, the big challenge will be to make the EQF work in practice in its current form. It will be difficult to create 8 reference levels and descriptors, which are sufficiently generic to encompass the different national qualification systems.

A look at the eight levels in the working document clearly shows the difficulties in creating clarity and simplicity. The categories often appear unclear and overlapping and will rely on interpretation. In addition some of the used concepts are known to be very difficult to operationalise. Therefore, the organization is of the opinion that the Commission needs to give a second thought as to how the 8 levels are divided and whether the use of 8 levels gives the necessary clarity.

Furthermore, as to the personal competences it could be useful also to include the ability of being creative and innovative, which is an important competence in a globalised world.

The Danish Society of Engineers recommends the Commission to continue its work and focus on lifelong learning. However, if it decided to continue developing the EQF, work needs to be done in order to clarify whether the use of the eight levels is aimed at evaluating a concrete job or an education. It is very ambitious to try to gather both in one scheme taken all the different traditions on lifelong learning in Europe into account.

The Danish Society of Engineers would be pleased to contribute to the work on EQF and lifelong learning. However, the work on a European accreditation system should be continued and the EQF must not jeopardize this work.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Christiansen
The Danish Society of Engineers